

# LULAC NEWS

Summer 2011



LULAC  
NATIONAL  
*Legislative Conference  
& Awards Gala*

**On Cover:**  
**Margaret Moran**  
*LULAC National  
President*

## Challenging Times:

- A Fiscal Crisis of Our Own Making
- Voting Rights in Texas, Puerto Rico
- New Corporate Partnerships
- Expansion in Utah, California
- Closing the Student Achievement Gap
- Convention Rules and Amendments

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## LULAC National President Margaret Moran Visits La Isla Del Encanto, Puerto Rico



(L-R) Ivonne Quiñones Lanzo, Puerto Rico State Director; Margaret Moran, National President and Oscar Moran, former National President.

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**On Cover:**  
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# A MESSAGE

## From the President



Photo by Luis Nardo Briones

Dear LULAC Brothers, Sisters, Friends and Associates:

This has been a very challenging time for all of us. The economy and the attacks on immigrants have kept us busy on every front.

Every time another state adopts legislation that targets Hispanic immigrants, we will mobilize to fight back. We must continue to fight the negative stereotyping that attempts to demean and dehumanize hard-working people who are trying to achieve the American Dream, a goal that we all want to attain. This year has been filled with negative outside rhetoric coming from sources that we, as an organization, are not tolerating.

We have responded to the most mean-spirited actions by those who do not understand, or REFUSE to understand, that disrespect to human beings will not go unnoticed by us.

Beginning with Arizona – followed by Florida, Georgia, Ohio, and now Utah – we are forging ahead in the courts! We will fight against any attempt to take away the rights of children born in the United States and ensure that they remain in their rightful place in America. We will continue to press on for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Dream Act. We will fight to ensure that all families, especially our elderly, have access to the best health care that they deserve, and we will fight to provide our children with the best education across the United States, the greatest country in the world.

How do we do this? We forge ahead in a UNITED EFFORT. Our population growth, according to the 2010 Census, has catapulted us to the top, as 1 in 6 Americans are Hispanic. Consumer buying power and voting power is in our hands, as we now number 50 million strong and account for more than half of the U.S. population growth over the past 10 years. As our community grows and emerges in new regions, we will also continue to expand our organization and seek new members. To this end, I am working hand in hand with our National Vice President for Young Adults to recruit more collegiate councils throughout the country.

In addition to these current initiatives, we can indeed do more; I ask for your collaborative effort to move this organization forward. To find out how you can be a part of the LULAC movement, please visit [www.LULAC.org](http://www.LULAC.org).

Margaret Moran  
National LULAC President

## Cover Story

### LULAC Presents 2011 National Legislative Conference and Awards Gala

In the heart of the nation's capital, LULAC hosted the 14th Annual National Legislative Conference and Awards Gala at the JW Marriott. Taking place from February 9 to 10 in Washington, D.C., the Conference gathered LULAC members from across



Photo by Luis Nardo Briones

(L-R) LULAC National President Margaret Moran, former LULAC National President Oscar Moran, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar and immediate past LULAC National President Rosa Rosales.

the country to participate in policy briefings, attend advocate meetings on the Hill, and experience the Legislative Awards Gala.

During the Legislative Conference, LULAC addressed its top policy issues, including education, health, nutrition and technology, through panel discussions with key advocates and policymakers. At the first event, panelists discussed the budget outlook for federally funded education programs and how these cuts would affect Latino students. As LULAC is a founding member of the Campaign for High School Equity, this conversation was critical in presenting the steep obstacles that education advocates are facing as they seek to effect change, as well as what to look out for in the coming year. In addition to educational attainment, guest speakers highlighted the policy implications of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, a bill that was passed in Congress and signed into law by the President in December. Sponsored by

*Continue page 11*

## Cincinnati Prepares to Welcome 82nd Annual National Convention & Expo

With a multicultural community representing half its population, Cincinnati is a premier destination for LULAC's 82nd Annual National Convention and Exposition. Taking place from June 27 to July 2, LULAC will present the largest and most exciting Hispanic event to the emerging Latino community within the greater Cincinnati area at the Duke Energy Convention Center, home of the largest ballroom in the Midwest.

Presented by the Procter and Gamble Company, this year's Convention with the theme *Bridging the Gap: Expanding the Latino Agenda Into New Frontiers* will feature free events from Wednesday June 29 through Friday July 1. These include policy workshops discussing critical issues affecting Latinos, the free Expo Latino open to the general public, free health screenings, free mammograms, a job fair, family-friendly entertainment, a college fair, national corporate and non-profit partners, local vendors, Disney characters, Captain America, and autograph sessions with author and TV host Maria Antonieta Collins and NFL Hall of Fame Legend Anthony Muñoz.

Geared towards young Latino leaders, LULAC also hosts the Youth Pre-Conference, a three-day event featuring college campus tours, team-building activities, interactive workshops, cultural site visits, historic site presentations, community service projects, and leadership training. Committed to integrating youth into LULAC as empowered participants, the Youth agenda then merges into that of the main Convention and includes workshops about resumes, technology tools, branding yourself, LULAC history, and more.

Kicking off on Monday, LULAC hosts the Federal Training Institute, a unique opportunity offered to federal employees seeking critical training in areas such as diversity, leadership, and effective management in a structured environment. The FTI will conduct workshops and plenary sessions to enable mid- and senior-level federal employees to enhance their leadership skills and develop the Executive Core Qualifications required for entry to the Senior Executive Service.

Throughout the week, LULAC will also welcome exciting guest speakers, such as the former President of Mexico Vicente Fox, Former First Lady of Mexico Martha Fox, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, USCIS Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Assistant Secretary for HUD John Trasvina, P&G President of North America Melanie Healey, Director of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Reverend Joshua DuBois, Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory, Comedian Alex Reymundo, author and TV host Maria Antonieta Collins, NFL Hall of Fame Legend Anthony Muñoz and others. Thousands of participants are expected to attend the nation's premier Hispanic convention to learn about the latest in national policy, meet Latino leaders from across the country, and experience an outstanding agenda of events.

Seminars and workshops will feature expert panelists addressing

key issues affecting the Hispanic community and mirror LULAC's national initiatives, including immigration reform, technology, education, health, civil rights and more.

On Thursday night, LULAC will present the eagerly anticipated, Voces Unidas: Concierto de la Gente. Featuring Crash of Telemundo and Alex Reymundo as Co-MCs, the Concierto will present Los Lobos, El Guero, and a Macy's Fashion Show. Free and open to the public, all interested attendees can obtain a ticket at the Expo Hall and receive free admission to this exciting concert.

In addition to the Youth Conference, LULAC will present the FTI

Youth-Collegiate Federal Career and Recruitment Forum - free of charge - on Friday July 1 for students of all ages interested in learning about resources within the federal government. Aimed towards high school, college, and graduate students, as well as school administrators and college counselors, the Forum will feature federal employees presenting information about internships, fellowships, student programs, and careers. This is a fantastic opportunity for Cincinnati area students and LULAC youth, in which they can gain perspective and

begin to prepare for successful college careers by maximizing such diverse resources, as well as sharing them with their peers.

On Friday, LULAC will host a Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony featuring the USCIS Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas and the Presidential Banquet, the largest event of the week featuring the Former President of Mexico Vicente Fox as the keynote speaker. The next day, LULAC delegates will elect their national leadership and establish policy priorities during the General Assembly, which will be followed by the LULAC President's Celebration at the Great American Ball Park, home of the Cincinnati Reds.

With such an action-packed agenda ready for the Cincinnati community, LULAC National President Margaret Moran took a minute to share her thoughts on why the LULAC Convention stands apart from others. "The LULAC Convention is an exciting, history-making convention because it convenes the national delegates of LULAC to discuss issues, set policies, and elect the organization's national leaders," explains LULAC National President Margaret Moran. "Our Convention is covered by national and local media because it is the only one in which participants representing Hispanic communities from across the country determine the positions and strategies of a national Hispanic organization. In Cincinnati, this emerging Latino community is redefining the social, demographic and cultural landscape of this city, which creates the ideal context for the LULAC National Convention to open dialogue and forge partnerships."

For more information about the LULAC National Convention & Expo, please visit [www.LULAC.org/convention](http://www.LULAC.org/convention).



# STATE OF THE ECONOMY

## A Fiscal Crisis of Our Own Making

*Congress and President Obama can eliminate the deficit, restore our economy and prepare our nation for the future by following in President Clinton's footsteps. With the future prosperity of our country hanging in the balance, will our national leaders have the political will to ask all Americans to make some sacrifices in the short term in order to create long term economic gain?*

By Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director

In 1993 when President Bill Clinton took office, 10 million Americans were unemployed, the country faced record deficits, and poverty and welfare rolls were growing. The national debt had quadrupled to its highest level ever.

Clinton's economic plan, which passed in August of 1993, raised the top effective tax rate to 39.6 percent, removed the income cap on Medicare taxes, imposed a 4.3 cent per gallon gas tax, created a 35 percent income tax rate for corporations, and raised the taxable portion of social security. All Americans were impacted by the tax hikes and the bill passed the House by just one vote.

Yet the plan worked and President Clinton presided over one of the longest and strongest economic expansions in our nation's history. Over 22.5 million new jobs were created during the Clinton Presidency, the economy grew an average of 4% per year, personal income grew and unemployment fell to 3.9%. The federal budget actually began to produce surpluses helping to pay down the national debt by \$363 billion.

Even the folks who opposed the tax increases did well, with the stock market growing an incredible 26.7% per year over the course of Clinton's eight years in office.

A decade later, the gains of the Clinton years have been wiped away. The economy has shed 2 million jobs, unemployment is over 9%, median household income has fallen by 5%, foreclosure rates are high, the stock market is down 10%, and we have a record \$1.5 trillion Federal budget deficit adding to a national debt that is already over \$14 trillion. Meanwhile, income inequality has grown sharply as the top 0.1% of earners took in more than 10% of personal income and the top 10% took in almost half.

How did our economic situation deteriorate so dramatically since President Clinton left office? Did spending on domestic and entitlement programs increase so much that our government is now living beyond its means? Do we need to cut these programs dramatically to rescue our economy as many in Congress now urge? Surprisingly, it turns out that the answer is no.

According to a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, virtually the entire projected deficit over the next ten years is explained by just three things: the economic downturn, President Bush's tax cuts and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. \*\*

In fact, according to the report, the Bush tax cuts and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will account for almost half of the \$20 trillion in debt that, under current policies, the nation will owe by 2019. By contrast, President Obama's stimulus bill will account for just 7% of this debt, but was widely viewed as necessary to arrest the economy's plunge. Yet the Great Recession has done lasting damage to the federal budget, accounting for \$400 billion of the federal deficit over the past three years.

It follows that in order to put our nation back on a sound financial footing, we must bring an end to the practices that got us into this situation in the first place. I believe we need to take the following four steps to restore our fiscal health:

First, we must allow the Bush tax cuts to expire at the end of 2012,

not just for the wealthiest 1%, but for all Americans. Average tax rates are lower now than they have been in a half century. While asking voters to make sacrifices is difficult, I believe the vast majority of Americans would be willing to return to the tax rates that they had under President Clinton if it meant that the economic growth that they had under Clinton would return as well.

Second, we need to bring an end to our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If the failures of regime change and nation building as well as the deaths of more than 6,000 US soldiers aren't enough to convince us to bring these wars to a close, then the \$1.2 trillion that we have spent on the conflicts should. America simply can no longer afford to be the world's lone policeman.

Third, Congress must create a regulatory framework that will prevent the kind of wild financial speculation that led to the collapse of our financial system in 2008. Without sound rules to play by, our financial sector has demonstrated that they lack the self-discipline required to prevent dramatic fluctuations between rampant speculation and recession-producing crashes even when such practices lead to massive losses for their own shareholders.

Finally and most important, Congress must continue to invest in improving our education system and to stimulate the creation of new jobs. Now is not the time for drastic cuts to domestic programs which

are in truth the most important investments in the future of America that we can make.

Slash-and-burn cuts to domestic spending combined with additional tax reductions for the wealthy is not the way to balance the federal budget while maintaining important social programs that invest in our nation's global competitiveness.

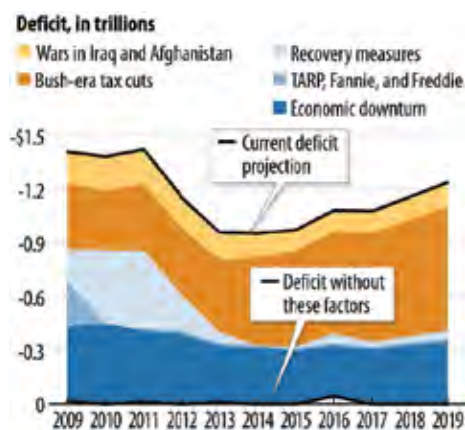
Early education programs, community health care services, job training programs and initiatives promoting innovation must be maintained and strengthened if we are to grow our economy and secure our future.

I have seen these programs transform lives firsthand. On countless occasions, I have had Latinos tell me that they wouldn't have gone to college, gotten a job, or bought a home if it hadn't been for LULAC members and staff

helping them out when they needed it the most. It is alarming that Congress would even consider cutting programs like these knowing how they can make the difference between success and failure for the people that they serve.

Rather, our elected leaders must undo the policies that have led us into economic paralysis. America's financial problems, as difficult as they seem, can be overcome, but we have to ask every sector of our society to contribute, not just those who are most vulnerable and in need of our help.

Asking all Americans to contribute more is not just the right thing to do; it is the only way out of our fiscal crisis. Our elected leaders can no longer keep telling voters what they want to hear without telling them what they really need to hear. The "sacrifice is for suckers" attitude of the past decade must give way to the challenge of JFK's "Ask what you can do for your country." A message of shared sacrifice for long-term gain worked for President Clinton and it can work again today.



Source: CBPP analysis based on Congressional Budget Office estimates.

\*\* *Economic Downturn and Bush Policies Continue to Drive Large Projected Deficits*, Kathy Ruffing and James R. Horney, May 10, 2011



## COMMUNITY

### Improving Life After Age 50

The 2011 LULAC National Elderly Conference was held March 4-5 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

LULAC National President Margaret Moran welcomed attendees at a reception in Old San Juan at the State Department Amphitheater.



*National LULAC Board members attend National Elderly Conference in Puerto Rico*

Additional speakers included LULAC State Director for Puerto Rico Ivonne Quiñones-Lanzo and Jose Melendes, Director of Municipal Affairs in the governor's office.

A day-long session included workshops on Social Security, reverse mortgages, rights and resources for elders, housing programs, Medicare, insurance, civil rights, nutrition and exercise, and enjoying the post-50 years. The convention theme was "Improving the Quality of Life 50+."

The Conference was sponsored by LULAC's Latinos Living Healthy Initiative. Rolando Gonzalez, LULAC's National Vice President for the Elderly, thanks Elsie Valdes and Roger Rocha, National LULAC Treasurer for the hard work in organizing a successful 2011 conference.

## FEDERAL TRAINING

### FTI Prepares for 2011 Institute

The 2011 Federal Training Institute committee members met with recently appointed LULAC Director of Federal Affairs, Sara Clemente, to collaborate and prepare for this year's FTI.

By collectively working together, the FTI committee has succeeded



*FTI Director, Sara Clemente, chairs FTI committee meeting in Washington, D.C., to prepare for 2011 LULAC National Convention*

in creating an agenda appealing to federal employees, LULAC members and the Cincinnati community and have acquired many partners along the way. The FTI committee is reaching out to the leaders of tomorrow through the Youth-Collegiate Career and Recruitment Forum. Federal agencies have partnered with LULAC in this initiative and will be showcasing their respective scholarships, internships and career opportunities for high school, college, and graduate-level students. In partnership with OPM, the FTI committee will also be conducting community briefings on how to find and apply for federal employment; resume writing; veteran initiatives and many more. The FTI committee is looking forward to this year's conference in Cincinnati and is excited to experience all the community has to offer!

[www.LULAC.org](http://www.LULAC.org)

## 82nd LULAC National Convention & Exposition

June 27-July 2, 2011 ♦ Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio



## U.S. Appeals Court Rejects Bid For Puerto Rico Voting Rights

By Kenneth Dalecki

Residents of Puerto Rico may not vote in federal elections because the island is not a state, a federal appeals court ruled late last year.

The decision will increase pressure for a vote in the U.S. Senate on a House-approved bill that would set up a two-step procedure allowing Puerto Ricans to vote for statehood, independence or maintaining the island's current territorial status.

In a 2-1 ruling, the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals said the Constitution reserves the vote in federal elections to "citizens of states." The fact that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens is not enough to give them a vote for representation in the U.S. Congress, the court majority decided. It also ruled that international treaties signed by the U.S. guaranteeing citizens' civil and political rights do not override the Constitution's rules on voting.

This class action suit was joined in part by the Puerto Rico government, as they sought the right to vote for U.S. Representatives for the island's four million residents. The court rejected a similar suit in 2005 seeking the right of Puerto Ricans to vote in presidential elections.



The 1st Circuit meets in Boston and covers Puerto Rico, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Its ruling may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his dissenting opinion, Judge Juan Torruella said U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico "for more than 100 years have been branded with a stigma of inferiority." He said the decision served to "tarnish our judicial system

as the standard-bearer of the best values to which our nation aspires." He said his colleagues based their decision on "outdated and retrograde underpinnings."

Judge Torruella noted in his 63-page dissent that Puerto Ricans had the right to vote while a colony of Spain, selecting six senators and 12 delegates to the Spanish parliament prior to the U.S. taking possession of the island after the Spanish American War in 1898.

The government of Puerto Rico's argument that the island is "the functional equivalent of a state" was rejected by the court, even though the court agreed that some provisions of the Constitution have been extended to Puerto Rico.

1st Circuit Chief Judge Sandra Lynch said in her majority opinion that residents of Puerto Rico can only vote in U.S. elections if the Constitution is amended or if the territory becomes a state. "The constitutional text is entirely unambiguous as to what constitutes statehood; the Constitution explicitly recites the 13 original states as being the states and articulates a clear mechanism for the admission of other states, as distinct from territories," she said. "Puerto Rico has not met these criteria." She said the vote is "given to residents of the states, not to citizens" and that "citizenship alone does not trigger the right to vote."

Judge Kermit Lipez agreed with Lynch's decision but said the case was important enough to warrant a decision by the full court and not just a three-judge panel. He said it presents "deeply troubling" legal issues.

Judge Torruella was born in San Juan. He was appointed to the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico by President Gerald Ford in 1974 and served as the District's chief judge before being appointed to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Judges Lynch and Lipez were appointed to the Appeals Court by President Bill Clinton.

The entire decision may be viewed at: <http://www.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf/opinions/09-2186P-01A.pdf>

## President Moran Named to American Bar Association Commission

LULAC National President Margaret Moran has been appointed to the newly formed American Bar Association (ABA) Commission

on Hispanic Legal Rights & Responsibilities.

The commission is holding regional hearings across the country to gather

comments and recommendations from Latino leaders and others to identify the significant legal issues affecting the nation's Latino community. It will publish a comprehensive report recommending action on key issues as a guide to state and federal policy makers, government agencies and organizations.



Stephen N. Zack

Stephen N. Zack, President of the ABA, created the new commission as one of his presidential initiatives. Honorary co-chairs of the commission are music producer Emilio Estefan, former U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida, and former Gov. Bill Richardson of New

Mexico.

The commission's first hearing took place in Chicago. In addition to LULAC National President Moran, commission members include Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO of MANA; Janet Murguia, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza; Dr. Eduardo Padron, President of Miami-Dade College; Cesar Perales, New York Secretary of State; Prof. Jenny Rivera, City University of New York School of Law; Thomas Saenz, President and General Counsel of MALDEF; Diana Sen, President of the Hispanic Bar Association; Charles Smith, retired judge of the Washington State Supreme Court, and Angela Oh, Executive Director of the Western Justice Foundation.

The ABA is the largest voluntary professional association in the world with more than 400,000 members. It provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.



## LULAC Women's Conference Urges Latinas to be "Agents of Change"

In the Windy City of Chicago, the 2011 LULAC National Women's Conference invigorated women leaders from April 8-9 and featured influential national and local speakers. Seeking to highlight Latinas as "Agents of Change: Making a World of Difference," attendees from around the country were empowered with information and tools to assist them in their mission to be strong advocates.

"Our 2011 conference reenergized Latinas of all ages with the strength and resources to continue fighting for positive change in our communities," said Regla Gonzalez, LULAC National Vice President for Women and Chairwoman of the well-attended conference that took place at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place.

LULAC National President Margaret Moran urged attendees to "redouble our efforts to make sure that all the women and girls in our country have a chance to live up to their potential." Motivational speaker Dr. Lourdes Ferrer pumped up the early morning attendees during the Saturday Breakfast recognizing community leaders, including Senator Iris Martinez; Representative Linda Chapa LaVia; Laura Perez, CEO of Carnicerias La Rosita; Arabel Alva Rosales, President of AAR & Associates; Esperanza Gonzalez of the Illinois Migrant Council; Sylvia Puente, Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum; Rafaella Weffer, Associate Vice President of



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon is greeted by the Chair of LULAC Women's Commission and National LULAC Vice President for Women Regla Gonzalez.

in the Latino community.

In addition to ticketed events and free workshops, an expo with a health fair and exhibit booths were open to the public featuring products tailored to the diverse attendees. Major sponsors of this year's Conference were Macy's, Ford Motor Company, ClearChannel Radio, Tyson, McDonalds, The Coca-Cola Company, Walgreens and Biba.

Serving as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Luncheon was Satcha Pretto from Univision, Tsi-Tsi-Ki Felix from Telemundo for the Breakfast and Lourdes Duarte from Chicago's WGN-TV for the Opening Reception.

"The National Women's Conference is a special time to highlight the accomplishments of Latinas who are excelling in their careers," said VP for Women Gonzalez. "Our willingness to step into leadership roles, our increased purchasing power, our educational attainment, and our propensity to speak up for our community's needs

– these superior qualities are at the core of what makes Latinas extraordinary. This Conference is where we acknowledge these strengths and encourage women to share their knowledge with others, especially young women who need positive role models."



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

The 2011 award recipients pose with national LULAC leaders and speakers

DePaul University, and Luisa Echeverria, Community Relations Director of Univision Chicago.

During the Sponsor Recognition Luncheon, LULAC was proud to welcome the United States Treasurer Rosie Rios and Cook County Illinois State Attorney Anita Alvarez as guest speakers who shared touching stories with the audience. Throughout Saturday's events, the Conference was packed with workshops on subjects ranging from being your own boss, reducing the high dropout rate among Latina students, becoming motivated for success, women in the military, immigration, health and nutrition, and the status of machismo in the Latino community. Former LULAC National President Rosa Rosales moderated a session on the growing threat of human trafficking



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Women's conference participant Sara Rosario Nieves visits with Dineen Garcia, Vice President of Diversity Strategies for Macy's.





# connect

At Cox Enterprises, we believe our differences – whether ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation – actually make us stronger. By linking each person's unique characteristics and thoughts to our common goals, Cox is building a stronger company and connecting our community. We're proud to support LULAC's mission to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. We're all connected.

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### N.J. Man Sentenced for Threatening Hispanics

The U.S. Department of Justice announced that Vincent Johnson of Brick, N.J., was sentenced to 50 months in prison and three years supervised release for sending a series of threatening email communications to employees of five civil rights organizations that work to improve opportunities for, and challenge discrimination against, Latinos in the United States. Johnson was also ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000.

Johnson, 61, who went by the Internet pseudonym “Devilfish,” pleaded guilty on Oct. 20, 2010, to 10 counts related to threatening conduct towards the victims, who included employees of the LatinoJustice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; the National Council of La Raza; the League of United Latin American Citizens; and the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders.

Johnson admitted that between November 2006 and February 2009, he emailed numerous threats to the victims to prevent them from aiding and encouraging Latinos to participate, without discrimination, in various protected activities, such as accessing the court system, voting, attending public schools, and applying for employment. Johnson admitted that his threats were motivated by race and national origin.

Examples of Johnson’s threatening language include: “Do you have a last will and testament? If not, better get one real soon.”; “If the idiots in the organizations which this e-mail is being copied to can’t fathom the serious nature of their actions, then they will be on the hit list just like any illegal alien...actually, they are already on the list”; “I am giving you fair warning that your presence and position is being tracked...you are dead meat...along with anyone else in your organization”; “So be warned or we may find you in the obits”; “Get into the American groove or we will destroy your sorry [expletive]”; “My preference would be to buy more ammunition to deal with the growing chaos created by the pro-illegal alien groups. RIP [names of the victims] who are not the friends of our democracy”; “After reading the article below can you give me simply one good reason why someone should not

put a bullet between your eyes for your actions that are promoting lawlessness in this country?”; and “[Y]ou are putting yourself and your staff at great risk . . . and by virtue of the network that I operate under information about your malevolent ways is broadly disseminated. . . And you could very well find yourself belly up 6 feet under.” Throughout his emails, Johnson also made offensive and disparaging remarks about Latinos, including comments such as, “[t]here can be absolutely no argument against the fact that Mexicans are scum as all they know how to do is [expletive] and kill.”

“The defendant engaged in a hate-fueled campaign of fear to intimidate and terrorize the victims,” said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. “Racially-charged threats of violence have no place in a civilized society, and the Department of Justice will vigorously prosecute those who engage in such reprehensible conduct.”

“Johnson admitted that he sent threatening emails to individuals and groups because of who they are and what they believe,” said Paul Fishman, U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. “Violence or threats of violence based on race, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation are an intolerable violation of our most basic civil rights. Hiding behind the perceived anonymity of a computer screen to make hateful threats will provide no protection from prosecution.”

“Vincent Johnson’s intent was crystal clear: he wanted to strike fear in the hearts of Latino and Hispanic activists in hopes of dissuading their activity,” said Michael B. Ward, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Newark Field Office. “Such conduct was, and will always, be met with swift response by the FBI. There is zero tolerance for this type of criminal activity impacting people’s civil rights.”

The case was investigated by the Washington, D.C., and Newark, N.J., field offices of the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Benjamin J. Hawk of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Eicher of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey.

### Immigration Update: Comprehensive Reform Unlikely Despite President Obama’s Renewed Call for Action

President Barack Obama continues to call for comprehensive immigration reform even though the political landscape in Washington makes legislative action unlikely until at least 2013.

The President traveled to El Paso, TX on May 10 and called on Republicans in Congress to join him in enacting legislation to address the status of millions of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. “Everyone recognizes the system is broken,” he said. “The question is, will we finally summon the political will to do something about it?”

The answer to that question appears to be a resounding “no” at least until after the next presidential election. Even incremental reforms on immigration seem unlikely for the near future. The House of Representatives last year narrowly passed the DREAM Act, which would give many children of undocumented immigrants a path to legal status, but it was blocked by the failure to block a filibuster in the Senate. Democrats have reintroduced the legislation but passage is more unlikely since Republicans gained control of the House and made gains in the Senate as a result of the 2010 congressional elections.

Critics of comprehensive reform argue that more must be done to secure the U.S. border with Mexico to prevent additional undocumented immigrants from crossing the border and recreating current conditions. But President Obama and Congressional Democrats contend the border has been beefed up enough to justify reform. “Maybe they (opponents of reform) will say we need a moat,” Obama said in El Paso. “Maybe they’ll want alligators in the moat.”

Obama won the presidency in 2008 with strong support from Hispanic voters and he is counting on their continued strong support in his bid for re-election next year. Nonetheless, LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes said Republicans could still do better among Hispanic voters if they supported immigration reform. “If the Republicans step forward and unveil a plan to get this job done, they’ve got a great opportunity to reach out to the Hispanic community,” he said.



# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE & GALA

## Legislative Conference

*Continue from page 3.*

the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this health and nutrition panel gave attendees an opportunity to discuss strategies for addressing poor health outcomes in Latino children, including how to effectively advocate for measures that can reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity. The Legislative Conference ended with a high-profile luncheon, Reforming Latino Broadband Access, sponsored by Comcast. Featuring Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and

opportunities for Hispanic Americans. They met with lawmakers and Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Thelma Melendez. The advocacy visits are a component to LULAC's Legislative Conference which aims to assure the Hispanic voice is heard.

At its annual Awards Gala, LULAC honored Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., for co-sponsoring the DREAM Act and for being a child nutrition advocate. Resident Commissioner Pedro R. Pierluisi, D-Puerto Rico, was recognized for his commitment to advancing the Hispanic community in Puerto Rico. Texas State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer, D-San Antonio, was honored for his work as Chairman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus where he supports school reforms, safe communities and job creation. LULAC National President Margaret Moran recognized Daniel Hernandez, an intern in the office of Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's, D-Ariz., for bravery and for helping save

the wounded lawmaker's life when she was shot at a shopping center early this year. Speakers included Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-Texas, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski; Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, and Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. Satcha Pretto of Univision's "Primer Impacto" was mistress of ceremonies. A native of Honduras, Ms. Pretto said she is "thankful that organizations like LULAC exist to help the community."

Major sponsors were AT&T, Comcast Corporation, Ford Motor Company, NCTA, Southwest Airlines, Verizon, AMGEN, Bank of America, ExxonMobil, Google, Microsoft, Univision Communications



*LULAC National Vice President for the Southeast Juan Carlos Lizardi with award recipient U.S. Representative Pedro Pierluisi.*

Inc., Visa, Wal-Mart, BlueCross BlueShield Association, General Motors Company, McDonald's, MillerCoors, The Coca-Cola Company, Procter & Gamble, Sprint Nextel, Credit Union National Association, PepsiCo, Together Rx Access, TracFone Wireless, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, MasterCard, Telemundo/NBCUniversal and Tyson Foods.



*Award recipient Texas State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer speaks at the LULAC National Legislative Conference.*

NTIA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications Anna M. Gomez, this event highlighted the ambitious National Broadband Plan presented by the FCC, which aims to obtain universal broadband access for all Americans and to create digital opportunity by building extensive infrastructure for rural communities in the next decade. As LULAC continues to deliver state-of-the-art technology to Latino communities through our national network of 60 technology centers, the development of the National Broadband Plan and reform of the Universal Service Fund is critical to the advancement of our community's computer literacy skill set.

LULACers traveled to Capitol Hill to promote education, health and job



*Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-Texas, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.*

## Pfizer Partners with LULAC's Latinos Living Healthy Campaign

High rates of unemployment and increases in the cost of living are causing many individuals to make tough choices. As the economic gains stall and the price of food and fuel continues to rise, many hard-working Hispanic families are facing economic hardships, which often prevent them from seeking critical health care services they need. However, help is available.

Assistance programs, such as Pfizer Helpful Answers®, PHA, can help uninsured or underinsured people get access to their Pfizer prescription medicines for free or at a savings. Millions can benefit from such patient assistance programs but they are not aware of them. That's why LULAC, in partnership with Pfizer Helpful Answers, integrated a special initiative into the Latinos Living Healthy campaign to educate local LULAC councils and communities about Pfizer Helpful Answers and other programs that offer help to those in need.

"Pfizer is committed to helping people without prescription coverage get the Pfizer medicines they need," said Gary Pelletier, Director of Pfizer Helpful Answers. "We are happy to continue our partnership with LULAC for the third year in a row and proud to work with the local LULAC councils to offer the program as a resource for council members and Hispanic communities across the country."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2009 report, the percentage of people without health insurance increased to 16.7% in 2009 from 15.4% in 2008. Of the 50.7 million people in the U.S. who are uninsured, 15.8 million are Hispanics. Among all groups in the U.S., Hispanics have the highest rate of uninsured (32.4%) people, meaning that nearly one of every three Hispanics lives and works without health insurance.

No one should have to choose between their health and their finances. To not address immediate health needs is dangerous and we aim to increase Latinos' access to medications

and yearly physicals, as this can mean the difference between living a healthy life and developing, or worsening, a debilitating disease.

Launched in the fall of 2010, the LULAC Latinos Living Healthy Campaign has conducted four community briefings in conjunction with Pfizer Helpful Answers, local LULAC councils, and community leaders in Rogers, Ark.; Kansas City, Mo.; Orlando, Fla.; and Houston. More sessions are planned as the partnership continues to unfold throughout the coming months

"The program and partnership have been an absolute success," said LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes. "Any time that we can bring information about a valuable resource such as Pfizer Helpful Answers to the Latino community, we are providing a service, empowering individuals and families, and strengthening our LULAC programs and councils."

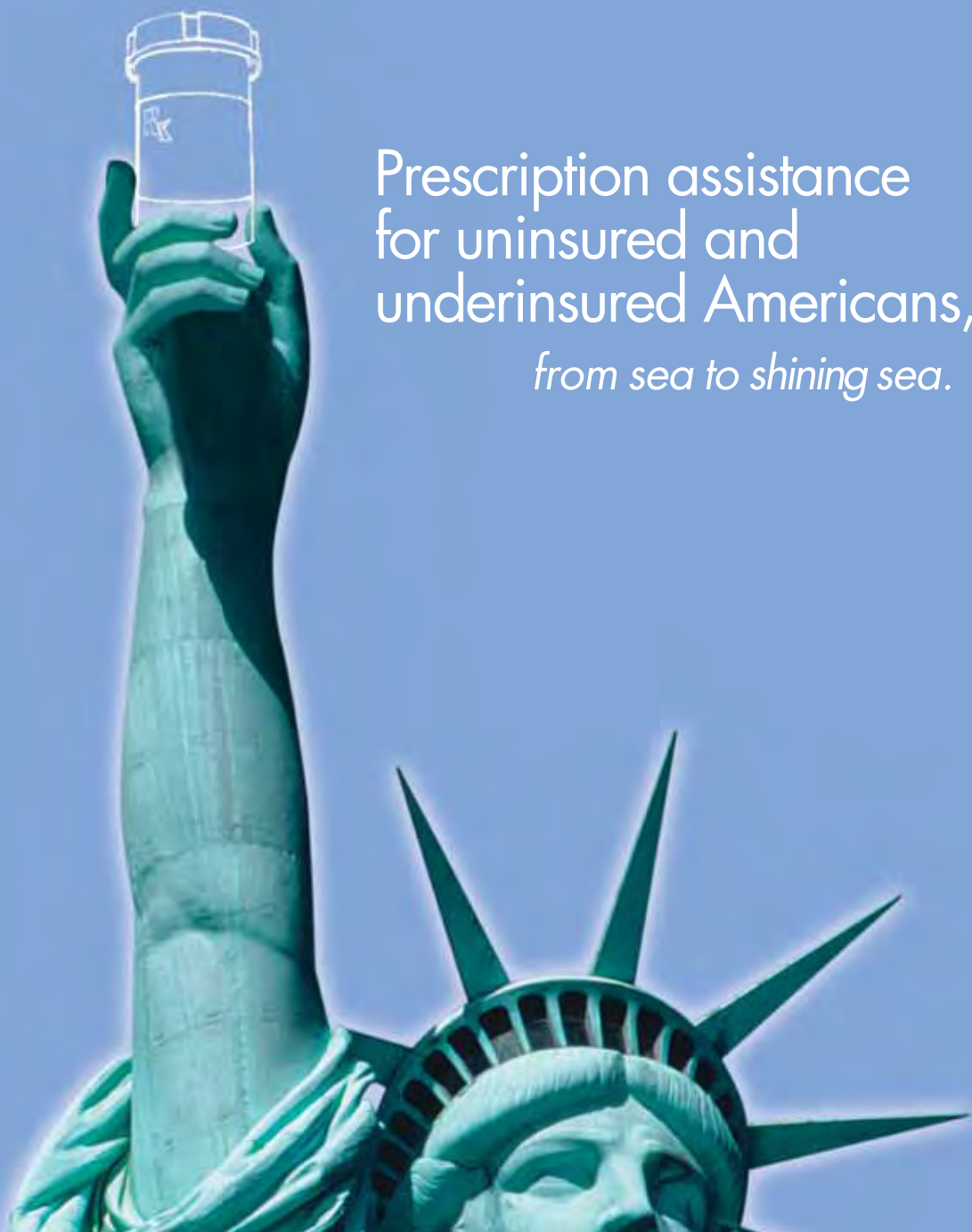
If you are uninsured, unemployed or facing a medical hardship, and need Pfizer medicine, Pfizer Helpful Answers may be able to help. Pfizer Helpful Answers is a family of assistance programs for the uninsured and underinsured who need help getting Pfizer medicines. These programs provide Pfizer medicines for free or at a savings to patients who qualify. Some programs also offer reimbursement support services for people with insurance.

In the last five years alone, Pfizer helped 4.5 million patients receive 44 million Pfizer prescriptions valued at \$5.6 billion in free medicines and savings. For more information on the program, call toll free 1-866-706-2400 or visit [www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com](http://www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com). Information is available in English and Spanish.

Be sure to look for the Pfizer Helpful Answers booth at the 82nd Annual LULAC National Convention and Exposition in Cincinnati, OH, where LULAC council members can enroll as an official Pfizer Helpful Answers Community Ambassador.







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underinsured Americans,  
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To learn more about program eligibility requirements,  
call 1-866-706-2400 or visit [www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com](http://www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com).



## P&G Supports Tech Center With New \$250,000 Grant



The P&G-LULAC technology center in Los Angeles has received a \$250,000 donation from P&G to continue free programs for Hispanic women, including classes in English and how to use computers.

"We are thankful to P&G for its support so we can continue to provide these free services to the growing community and support their educational advancement," said LULAC National President Margaret Moran on announcement of the donation in May. The technology center is located at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), 2845 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St.

Funding covered the cost of a free seminar conducted at CARECEN May 13 by Mexican TV host and author Maria Antonieta Collins with tips on saving money and simplifying household chores. A similar P&G-sponsored seminar by Ms. Collins was held on June 10 at the LNEC Center in Houston.

"P&G grows by touching and improving more consumers' lives in more parts of the country," said Alexandra Vegas, Director Multicultural Business Development North America at Procter & Gamble. "The partnership with LULAC accelerates educational attainment within the Hispanic American community, and provides branded products and services of superior quality to improve lives. We are proud to continue this partnership and excited to team up with Maria Antonieta Collins to further the cause."

"I know by personal experience how hard it can be to be a mother, the executive of my home, go to work not only outside of my home but in a different city and, at the same time, keep my home. It is a complicated endeavor that gets easy when we can count on resources that help us simplify our lives," said Collins. "That is why I am excited to work with LULAC and P&G to bring these seminars to the heart of our community and share with our people advice to help them make their daily lives more efficient."

## Time Warner Cable Helps LULAC Create Charlotte Tech Center



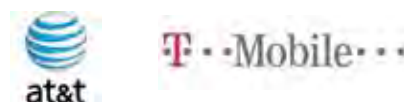
Time Warner Cable and LULAC have partnered to activate the "Empower Hispanic America Technology Center" at the Latin American Coalition in Charlotte, N.C. The center was officially opened in February and responds to the need to advance broadband access and literacy in the Hispanic community, particularly in emerging communities across the United States.

The center is at 4938 Central Avenue in East Charlotte. The Latin American Coalition Executive Director Jess George was joined by Carol Hevey, East Region Executive Vice President for Time Warner Cable; Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director; Jennifer Roberts, Chairperson for the Mecklenburg County Commission, and other local Hispanic community leaders.

The new technology center, which includes 10 computers and peripheral equipment, provides Coalition visitors with complimentary access to Time Warner Cable's Business Class high speed Internet service and strengthens existing classes helping Hispanics develop critical computer skills and to research career options. The tech center will complement Coalition efforts to empower Latinos with educational opportunities such as financial literacy, English language classes and online citizenship curriculum in order to compete and succeed in the workforce.

Made possible by a \$200,000 grant from Time Warner Cable, the Empower Hispanic America Technology Center in Charlotte is one of five created through the Time Warner Cable and LULAC partnership. Tech centers have also been sponsored in San Antonio, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; Waukesha, Wisconsin; and Cincinnati, Ohio. Time Warner Cable and LULAC plan to provide free Internet access to another 13 technology sites throughout the United States in 2011. Latin American Coalition is a participating member of LULAC's Empower Hispanic America with Technology initiative, the largest national Latino technology network, which consists of 60 community technology centers in 27 states.

## Hispanic Organizations See Potential Within Merger of AT&T and T-Mobile



Fourteen national Hispanic organizations, including LULAC, filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to highlight potential opportunities created by the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. Latinos are leading adopters of wireless internet services but are far less likely to have broadband internet access at home. The commitments that AT&T is making as part of this proposed merger will help Latino communities, according to the organizations.

The groups said the proposed deal improves prospects for faster deployment of high-speed wireless internet access and the creation of a robust broadband adoption program that could help low-income and Spanish speaking Americans close the digital divide.

The groups cited several areas in which merger commitments by AT&T are likely to help Latinos. They include the combined companies' commitment to expanding culturally sensitive education programs and robust internet adoption programs. This acquisition, they wrote, "could be a catalyst for opening up high speed wireless broadband networks to underserved communities."

Small business internet access is a crucial issue in many Hispanic communities and the combined company has already pledged an additional \$8 billion to fund faster wireless service to 55 million additional Americans.

The groups also cited the benefits from faster deployment of high-speed wireless service in rural and underserved areas. These communities also tend to be more mobile and less likely to adopt home wireline broadband. The letter urges the FCC to monitor the impact the merger may have on price levels and to ensure that prices continue to decline.



## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

### National LULAC Corporate Alliance

The LULAC Corporate Alliance, an advisory board of Fortune 500 companies, works to strengthen partnerships between Corporate America and the Hispanic community. The role of the advisory board is to support the strategies, goals, and mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens and advocate on its behalf. Corporations participating in the Alliance work with LULAC in developing national and community-based programs to address the needs of the Latino community, and ensure that the nation's future workforce obtains the necessary education and skills to keep America productive. LULAC is excited to work with our key corporate partners as we continue to expand LULAC's

community-based programs in civic engagement, civil rights, economic empowerment, education, health, housing, immigration, public service and technology with over 135,000 community volunteers, 900 LULAC councils, 55 community technology center partners and 15 LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEC) locations in 34 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

LULAC thanks the 2010-2011 LULAC Corporate Alliance members for an exciting year of growth in advocacy, programs and events!



Photo by Luis Nino Briones

LULAC Corporate Alliance Meeting

### 2010-2011 LULAC Corporate Alliance Executive Committee

**Mr. Emilio Gonzalez**, Verizon  
*Chair*

**Ms. Angelina Ornelas**, Bank of America  
*Vice Chair, Finance Committee*

**Mr. Richard Abraham Rugnao**, Yum! Brands Inc.  
*Vice Chair, Public Relations Committee*

**Mr. Fernando R. Laguarda, Esq.**, Time Warner Cable  
*Vice Chair, Policy Committee*

### LULAC Corporate Alliance Members

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**Mr. Howard Moon**, Amgen  
**Mr. Michael Juarez**, American Airlines  
**Ms. Margarita Flores**, Anheuser-Busch, Inc.  
**Ms. Norelie Garcia**, AT&T, Services Inc.  
**Mr. Tom Leibensperger**, BlueCross BlueShield Association  
**Ms. Andrea Marquez**, Burger King Corp.  
**Mr. Victor G. Cabral**, Cabral Group  
**Mr. Rudy Beserra**, The Coca Cola Company  
**Ms. Susan Gonzales**, Comcast  
**Ms. Jami Buck-Vance**, Cox Enterprises, Inc.  
**Mr. Robert Rodriguez**, Denny's, Inc.  
**Ms. Virginia Sanchez**, Diageo North America  
**Mr. Leonard James, III**, Exxon Mobil Corporation  
**Ms. Lynn Quigley**, Ford Motor Company Fund  
**Mrs. Alma Guajardo-Crossley**, General Motors Company  
**Mr. Brad Shaw**, The Home Depot

**Mr. Peter Villegas**, JPMorgan Chase  
**Mr. Gus Viaño**, McDonald's Corporation  
**Mr. Alex Lee Franco**, Mead Johnson Nutrition  
**Mr. Jose Ruano**, MillerCoors  
**Ms. Nilda Gumbs**, National Cable & Telecommunications Assoc.  
**Ms. Felisa Insignares**, The Procter & Gamble Company  
**Mr. Roy Cosme**, Pfizer Inc.  
**Mr. Brian K. Hall**, Shell Oil Company  
**Ms. Christine Ortega**, Southwest Airlines  
**Mr. Ralph Reid**, Sprint Nextel Corporation  
**Ms. Nora Venegas**, Tyson Foods Inc.  
**Ms. Ivelisse Estrada**, Univision Communications Inc.  
**Mr. Roger Guzman**, Walmart  
**Mr. Efrain G. Fuentes**, The Walt Disney Company  
**Mr. Mario Hernandez**, Western Union

## High School Students in Milwaukee Take College Credit Classes In Program Funded by Ford to get more Hispanics into College

By Georgia Pabst of the Journal Sentinel

Andrew Acosta, 17, wants to be a doctor of sports medicine. Juan Santana, 18, hopes to be a dentist.

Yireisy Frias, 17, a senior with a 4.0 grade-point average, hasn't decided on a career. But she hopes to enroll at Milwaukee Area Technical College when she graduates and then get a college degree.

They are among 10 South Division High School students who are getting a jump on their academic futures through a pilot program started in January that allows the students to take a class at MATC and earn college credit while completing their high school studies.

The initiative, called Driving Dreams through Education, is one of 10 funded across the country by the Ford Motor Co.

Ford has awarded a \$20,000, two-year grant to the League of United Latin American Citizens to administer the program developed by LULAC, MATC and Milwaukee Public Schools. Next school year, the program will pay for 10 more students to participate.

The goal of the Ford program is to find innovative solutions to increase the high school graduation rates of Hispanic students and encourage students to continue to a postsecondary education after graduation, said Darryl Morin, the state director of LULAC.

"Some 7,000 students drop out every day in this country, but these kids won't drop out and they will finish high school and go on to finish college," MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton said.

"You are trailblazers, and we need to make that trail nice and wide for others," Thornton told the students and other officials who gathered last week to showcase the program.

He called the program "a great investment," especially in these times when budgets and tax dollars are so tight. "I thank LULAC for stepping up," he said.

Morin said he's looking for other corporate partners to invest and expand the program. Out of 100 Latino children who start kindergarten, only 10 will go on to college, said Heidi Ramirez, chief academic officer for MPS.

"With this program, these kids won't have that fate," she said. She used her three favorite Spanish words that she said describe the program and the opportunity it presents.

There's orgullo, or pride.

There's gratis, which means the program is free. "One of the largest obstacles facing Hispanics is having the resources to pay for college," she said. And there's adelante, which means "go forward."

MATC President Michael Burke said he will track the students as they complete the course. Of the 10 students, two are seniors and eight are juniors.

Students take a bus from South Division to MATC four days a week for the class, which starts at 3 p.m. It's a 200-level course in English grammar and composition that's worth three credits. On two days, students receive in-class instruction, and on the other two days, they receive support and tutoring to assist them with the course and their writing skills, said Arturo Martinez, associate dean at MATC.

The juniors will be eligible to return next year and could earn a total of six college credits in all, he said. The students said they were selected for the class by guidance counselors who also consulted with their parents to make sure the entire family was committed.

"This program has been an eye-opener for me, and I thank you for the opportunity,"

Acosta said. "We can be somebody. I have many dreams. It's also making me become a better writer."

He said he also likes being on the MATC campus and knowing that he has freedom, along with responsibility.

For Frias, just getting to MATC is a new experience. "It's the first time I've ever ridden the bus," she said. "The class is giving me a head start on college."

Santana, echoing a sentiment the others shared, said: "It's a challenge. I can say I'm a college student and a high school student. I'm working on my future."

*\*Reprinted with permission from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel-Journal/Sentinel, Inc., Journal Communications, Inc.*

## Roadmap on Education Addresses Challenges Facing Hispanic Community

**Ensuring America's Future (EAF), an initiative led by Excelencia in Education, has recently released its Roadmap for Ensuring America's Future—a collaborative report among 60 national partners, including LULAC, to stimulate dialog in communities across the nation around increasing Latino college completion (For a complete list of partners, see <http://www.edexcelencia.org/initiatives/EAF/Roadmap>).**

Excelencia has been working since 2004 to accelerate student success in higher education through the application of research and knowledge to public policy and institutional practice.

The Ensuring America's Future initiative seeks to further that cause, as shown through its Roadmap, which cites two central areas for concern:

- The Latino population has and continues to grow rapidly across the nation. Between 2005 and 2022, the number of Hispanic high school graduates is projected to increase 88% while that of white graduates is projected to decline by 15%.
- The educational attainment of Latinos is significantly lower than other groups. As of 2008, only 19% of Hispanics over 25 in the United States had earned a postsecondary degree compared to 29% of African Americans, 39% of whites, and 59% of Asians.

In order to reach the nation's degree attainment goals by 2020 and close the equity gaps, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees over the next nine years. In order to meet that goal, Ensuring America's Future has focused on a few priority areas. First, the initiative stresses the enormous benefits to the United States of supporting Hispanic college completion. It also aims to inform, organize, and track the progress of Latino college completion. Through a number of metrics, the Roadmap profiles the Latino student population and identifies specific benchmarks for closing the achievement gap by 2020. Additionally, Ensuring America's Future promotes engaged discussion by national, state, community, and institutional stakeholders in Latino college completion.

Last, the initiative supports a culture of collaboration by highlighting and disseminating promising practices.

The Roadmap, released in March, includes several useful items for

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# EDUCATION

*Continued from page 18*

understanding the plight of Latinos in higher education as well as tools for moving forward. Four central priorities are addressed: college preparation, access, persistence, and college completion.

In highlighting these target areas, the Roadmap includes several helpful tools. It provides a detailed profile of Latino undergraduate students to help inform policy. EAF points out that Latinos in the United States are primarily native-born, high school graduates, and English language dominant—contrary to much public perception. Also included is benchmarking data that helps clarify what goals must be met in anticipation of reaching Obama's 2020 push to be the top ranked country in degree attainment in the world.

Last, the Roadmap details specific policy recommendations for all levels of governance, which are complemented by examples of partner efforts that situate those recommendations in specific contexts. The Roadmap advocates for institutional initiatives geared toward non-traditional students, as many as 49% of Latino students attend community colleges. It also encourages colleges and universities to create policies that increase retention and improve need-based aid. One such university is the Universidad de Sagrado Corazón, which offers main courses online as a backup system for students with unexpected work schedule changes during the semester. The Ensuring America's Future plan also pushes community-based organizations to support degree attainment and to inform their communities about pathways to college and necessary learning outcomes.

Another partner in EAF, *Prepárate*, a conference developed by the College Board, provides information for teachers, counselors, administrators on engaging and preparing Latino students for college. Last, it argues that the government's focus on access (i.e. PELL grants and Stafford loans) and support programs (e.g. TRIO and GEAR Up) should be complemented with support programs for retention, participation in practices that produce both persistence and high quality learning, and degree attainment.

The following are recommendations that pertain to specific groups:

## What Community Leaders Can Do:

- Inform the community about pathways to college and support degree attainment.
- Develop partnerships between school districts and higher education institutions to improve college- readiness and participation rates.
- Review workforce preparation programs and consider expansion.

- Establish community partnerships to compliment institutional efforts to increase success in postsecondary education

## What College Leaders Can Do:

- Implement high impact practices with proven benefits to increase student learning outcomes
- Measure progress in student preparation, access, persistence, and degree attainment
- Increase student retention efforts for working students in good standing
- Increase early college high schools and dual enrollment programs
- Guarantee need-based aid for qualified students

## What State Leaders Can Do:

- Support a rigorous public high school curriculum
- Require a simplified transfer pathway to colleges and universities
- Make college accessible and affordable for students of all economic backgrounds
- Build state databases that track equity and success in degree attainment
- Develop a state plan that includes strategies to ensure access to a quality postsecondary education and support to degree attainment.

## What Federal Leaders Can Do:

- Require appropriate training and materials for default management and financial literacy.
- Link support for capacity building at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and emerging HSIs with degree attainment.
- Align efforts on work-study program offerings in partnerships with states.
- Support the development of diagnostic assessments and aligned targeted curriculum to improve delivery of remedial coursework to increase retention rates.
- Collect data on certificates leading to a living wage in the National Household Community Survey.
- Provide opportunities for undocumented students who are U.S. high school graduates and college- ready to complete college.

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# SCHOLARSHIPS



## LULAC Awards 40 Scholarships in San Luis

For the past several years, the farmworker community of San Luis, AZ has raised funds through LULAC Council 1091, supported by Council 1088, to award more than 150 college scholarships to local migrant students. These scholarships empower students to attend college and progress forward with their career goals. This year, 40 scholarships were awarded in San Luis, the hometown of the late farmworker organizer and civil rights leader, Cesar Chavez. Among those receiving a scholarship was Erika Mendoza, who has earned academic success despite losing her hands at the age of five in a car accident.



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## Latest “Report Card” Shows Major Gap In Achievement for Hispanic Students

The results of the Department of Education initiative, the National Assessment for Educational Progress were recently released for 12th grade students in 11 states. Known as the nation’s report card, this national assessment, given periodically, measures academic proficiency in math, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history among 4th, 8th, and 12th graders at the national, state, and local level.

Started in 1969, its goal has been to provide a nationwide measurement on achievement over time.

While based on samples of the population, the results are nationally representative. Complete results of the assessment can be found at <http://nationsreportcard.gov/about.asp>.

Although participation for 4th and 8th grade students in Title I funded schools is mandated under the No Child Left Behind law, the 12th grade assessment remains optional to states. In 2009, 11 states participated, testing 52,000 students in reading and 49,000 in math. The average reading score rose slightly since 2005, but was still lower than 1992. The number of students performing at or above proficient rose 3% from 2005 to 38% in 2009.

However, scores were not statistically different from scores prior to 2005. The achievement gap also signals room for improvement as there were no significant improvements since 1992. Hispanics, African Americans, and American Indians/Alaska Natives have seen no significant change in scores since 1992.

Math scores hint at slightly more progress. In 2005 the NAEP made changes to the test framework and allowed accommodations for ELLs. 9 Accommodations are provided to students with disabilities and English language learners if they are deemed necessary. They can include extra time, preferential seating, or directions read aloud in the student’s native language. For further information see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp>), meaning that the current results cannot be compared to assessments prior to the change. The percentage of students at or above proficient rose from 23% in 2005 to 26% in 2009. The most pronounced gains were among the Asian/Pacific Islanders (the category of Asian/Pacific Islander does not disaggregate data for Asian and Southeast Asian students, hiding significant differences in student achievement) and the American Indian/Alaska Natives. However, despite gains across the board, achievement gaps saw no significant change<sup>2</sup>.

Latino children remain twice as likely as white children to score in the woeful “below basic” category at both the fourth- and eighth-grade reading levels on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP). For the two in five Latino eighth-graders nationally scoring “below basic,” the test’s lowest category, the odds against earning a high-school diploma are extremely steep. Worse still, however, is that Latino proficiency levels essentially failed to improve between 2002 and 2009. This fact holds even more daunting

implications considering the Pew Charitable Trusts’ projection that 29 percent of the U.S. population will be Hispanic in 2050.

The 12th grade results show marginal gains, but are not nearly as impressive as improvements in 4th and 8th grade. This can be interpreted in two ways; either the test does not accurately portray 12th grade students’ abilities or the assessment provides evidence of a struggling education system.

Some, including former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch, have criticized the test as it is not tied to any meaningful consequences<sup>3</sup>.

Unlike state assessments and college entrance exams, the results of the NAEP are not individually scored and have no bearing on grades or college acceptance, increasing the likelihood that 12th grade students won’t take the exam seriously.

Despite its limitations, officials have acknowledged that the assessment is rigorous.

The National Assessment Governing Board has even been studying the test’s overlap with other college entrance exams<sup>4</sup>. Other studies have drawn attention to the differences between state assessments and the NAEP. In a comparison of 2009 results in 8th grade, the Alliance for Excellent Education found that the students scored significantly lower on the NAEP than the state tests with an 39 % average gap in reading scores and 30% average gap in math. Five states had a reading gap larger than 60% and four

states had a math gap larger than 50%<sup>5</sup>. These numbers demonstrate that state assessments are not portraying an accurate picture of student achievement. For example, New Mexico state tests showed that more than half of students were proficient in reading and more than 40 percent in math. Yet the NAEP showed that less than 20% of students were proficient, in either subject, when tested by the NAEP’s more rigorous standards.

These discrepancies demonstrate the overwhelming variability when it comes to state standards and assessments. While some states like Connecticut and Massachusetts have relatively rigorous standards, many remain inadequate. In an attempt to provide a greater and consistent level of accountability, the Common Core Standards have been developed and adopted by more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. Working toward the goal of college and career readiness, they were designed as clearer, higher standards that better position U.S. students to compete in the global economy.

They allow for aligned curricula and improved assessments that address the vast disparities between state and national tests. It is clear that the state-led Common Core will require sufficient funding, political will, and collaboration at national, state, and local levels to be successful. Although it will be a challenging transition, NAEP demonstrates the need for nationally comparable data. The state assessment shortcomings that are highlighted by the NAEP warrant improved measures to ensure student success throughout all states.



## LNESC & LULAC: Inspiring and Cultivating Future Latino Leaders Through the Annual Washington Youth Leadership Seminar

By Jason Resendez, LNESC Dir. of Corporate Relations & Dev.

A recent study released by the Pew Hispanic Center found that 64% of Hispanics surveyed could not name “the most important Latino leader in the country today.”

Perhaps more interesting, an additional 10% answered that “no one” qualified.

Many have asked what does this say about the Latino community.

Are there no leaders in our community who we can point to - no more Cesar Chavez's among us? Or, are we less informed about the political process, less knowledgeable about the various community movements happening in states like Texas and Arizona (and many others) around issues like immigration reform and The Dream Act?

I don't think it's fair to draw either of these conclusions. Instead, this new Pew Hispanic Center study helps to confirm what we Latinos already know: our community is dynamic and growing.

The Latino community is diverse and continually shifting, comprised of individuals from all over the Spanish speaking world (and of people who don't speak Spanish at all!). It is hard to identify a single Latino leader when Latino means so many things to so many different people.

However, just because we can't point to a single Latino voice doesn't mean that many different voices aren't actively pursuing positive change for our community.

LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESC) and LULAC work together to provide a stage for these voices in Washington D.C. every year. Together, LNESC and LULAC host the Washington Youth Leadership Seminar (WYLS), a program that brings together approximately 50 top-notch students from around the U.S. to learn firsthand how the policy-making process works.

Students came together from various parts of the Latino community. In 2010, they hailed from 13 states. Some only spoke Spanish; some didn't speak a word of it. Some enjoyed

listening to Selena; some preferred Taylor Swift.

Despite these geographic, cultural, and language differences, all 50 students shared a desire to become leaders within their communities. This common goal brought together Guatemalans and Mexicans, first generation Americans and 10th generation Americans, all for the purpose of moving the Latino community forward on a number of issues. They participated in advocacy trainings and policy discussions facilitated by LNESC and LULAC. They voiced strong opinions to White House staffers, including Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cecelia Munoz, and asked sharp questions of Congressional aides on the stimulus package and its benefits for the Latino community.

After four days of meetings and leadership trainings, WYLS participants strengthened their voices and left D.C. ready to tackle the issues that face their respective communities. One participant said that WYLS made her feel like she had a voice that here government was eager to listen to her. After



White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cecelia Muñoz meets with WYLS participants.

evaluating student surveys, 100 percent of the participants reported they would return home feeling like leaders.

The Washington Youth Leadership Seminar brought together a diverse group of Latino youth and equipped them

with life-long skills and a new sense of confidence. It's LNESC and LULAC's goal that when someone asks one of its WYLS participants to name an important Latino leader, they'll be able to answer with their own name.



WYLS participants on the Capitol steps.



**Richard Roybal**  
Executive Director



To learn about our programs visit us at [www.LNESC.org](http://www.LNESC.org) or call for information at 202.835.9646

LNESC National Office | 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610 | Washington, DC 20036



## Smithsonian Latino Center Selects LULAC Member Christina Uranga as Intern

In 1994, *Willful Neglect*, a report of the Smithsonian Institution Task Force on Latino Issues clearly proved that a Hispanic presence was missing at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Soon after, the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives, which was later changed and shortened to the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC), was created to coordinate programs and exhibits on Latino culture throughout the Smithsonian. Since its founding in 1997, the SLC has developed more than 300 projects from living exhibitions to live arts performances.

Under the helm of Director Eduardo Diaz, and his staff, the Latino Center has grown tremendously over time, developing outstanding education and outreach programs, such as the Young Ambassadors Program, a national leadership develop-



participants to increase the representation, documentation, knowledge and interpretation of Latino art, culture and history.

The SLC is also a pioneer in the future of museum technology and the way people interact and learn online. It has successfully created The Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum, an avatar-based, 3-D learning environment that is focused on the representation of cultural heritage using cutting-edge technology.

Overall there has been positive improvement at The Smithsonian Institution since

TX, will be able to experience working with the Latino Center this summer. She has been selected as

part of the James E. Webb Internship Program for Minority Undergraduate Juniors, Seniors and

Graduate Students in Business and Public Administration. The Program is part of The Office of Fellowships and Internships at the Smithsonian that offers internships and visiting student awards to increase participation of U.S. minority groups who are underrepresented in Smithsonian programs, research, and in the museum field. Cristina will work with the SLC Director and staff to research and develop strategic program proposals for The Smithsonian Institution "Mission Critical Programs" via the Smithsonian Channel. She will also research and submit proposals geared towards developing strategic uses of marketing and new media and technology tools, with the aim of aiding fundraising goals for specific SLC projects/initiatives such as the Latino Virtual Museum. Cristina is a member of LULAC 4871 and a straight ally to the LGBT community.

*For more information on The Smithsonian Latino Center contact: Danny López, Smithsonian Latino Center, Program & Marketing Manager: (202) 633-0804 <http://latino.si.edu/> To contact Cristina Uranga: [curanga@smu.edu](mailto:curanga@smu.edu)*



Cristina Uranga



*Latin Jazz artist and four-time Grammy nominee, John Santos, at JAM 2011 demonstrating how to use a Chekere.*

ment program for high school seniors that cultivates the next generation of Latino leaders in the arts and culture fields; and the Latino Museum Studies Program, a program for graduate students and mid-career professionals that enhances the leadership, research and creative skills of the

the 1994 report and although there is much more room for growth it will be up to the young leaders in our community to continue working towards that future.

Cristina Uranga, originally from El Paso, TX and now a graduate student (MBA/MA) at Southern Methodist University in Dallas,



## Celebrating 75 years of History

The premier source for authentic Latino cuisine, Goya Foods is the largest, Hispanic-owned food company in the United States. Founded in 1936 by Don Prudencio Unanue and his wife Carolina, both immigrants from Spain, the Goya story is about the importance of family, as it is about achieving the American dream. Goya Foods recently debuted a commemorative book titled *If it's Goya, it has to be Good: 75 years of History*, a 446-page commemorative book chronicling the history of the leading Hispanic-owned food company in the United States. Commissioned by the Unanue family to famed historian Dr. Guillermo Baralt, the book also details the Hispanic immigration to the U.S., and the changes the Hispanic population has undergone throughout the past 75 year history. This book is also part of the Library of Congress Collection for future generations to enjoy, as recent statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal that Hispanics number more than 50 million, making them the second largest group in the country.

Goya is a company that was started in a small storefront in Lower Manhattan, New York, catering to local Hispanic families by distributing Spanish foods such as olives, olive oil and sardines. Driven by the belief that there was a growing consumer market for high-quality, fresh-tasting, Latino foods, the Unanues infused their personal philosophy throughout the company. Goya Foods into a leader in the Latin American food industry, with operations spanning the globe.

From Goya's modest origins, the company now boasts a full host of products ranging from condiments, pantry items, beverages and frozen foods representing all of Latin America. Goya has continuously increased offerings to what is today a milestone of over 1,600 products, and distributed brands, further solidifying its position as the definitive connection to Latin American cuisine. As the company continues extensive product diversification, it honors Goya's founders by fulfilling their promise to make each meal a uniquely memorable experience for family and friends.

Throughout its history, Goya Foods' 3,500 dedicated employees have helped to build the company's solid reputation as the leading authority on Hispanic food. Whether presenting consumers with the finest products from the Caribbean, Mexico, Spain, Central and South America, the Goya brand has insured quality for multiple generations of satisfied consumers. In addition, Goya Foods has been a proud supporter of programs and activities that benefit families and children throughout the world. They have taken the lead in numerous disaster relief efforts, providing food donations in times of crisis and consistently working with local food banks to assist those less fortunate. Goya Foods actively engages with social, civic and non-profit organizations on charitable endeavors that promote and sustain community wellness and the advancement of Hispanic culture.

Goya's commitment continues to be realized through its online presence, [www.goya.com](http://www.goya.com), which personalizes the consumer experience by providing great-tasting, authentic Latino recipes for the home cook as well as educating Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike to the diversity of Latin American cuisine.

Goya Foods remains firm in its goal of being the brand of choice for authentic Latino cuisine while retaining its family-oriented approach to its consumers and to supporting all great causes such as **LULAC's National Conference - Concierto De la Gente** to be held this year in Cincinnati, Ohio from June 27 to July 2, 2011.

## Ford Motor Company Fund Launches Second Year with LULAC

By Ulises A. Gonzalez, LULAC National Program Coordinator

Since its founding, LULAC has prioritized the educational needs of Hispanic students as a top concern for our organization. Beginning in the fall of 2010, LULAC and the Ford Motor Company Fund collaborated to improve student outcomes in an initiative called Ford Driving Dreams through Education.

According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, "only 57.8 percent of Latino students...entering ninth grade earn a high



Ford students learning about STEM careers in Santa Ana, CA.

school diploma four years later" (*Alliance for Excellent Education, 2010*). This alarming rate indicates that many Latinos will enter the workforce with minimal skills and will have substantial obstacles preventing them from building wealth without a well-rounded education. In order to empower students with the keys to success,, the Ford Driving Dreams through Education initiative funds 10 unique and motivational solutions to help mitigate the high school drop-out rate. Through this partnership, ten LULAC councils will provide services such as extracurricular activities, tutoring, and mentoring to students in order to stimulate academic achievement and facilitate higher rates of high school completion. This combined effort has impacted the lives of 242 students throughout the United States. In addition to students' participation, the Ford Driving

Dreams through Education program has developed close to 90 adult mentors and ensured interaction with more than 40 parents, 27 stakeholders; and over 300 community members who have participated in events sponsored by this initiative.

For example, in Santa Ana, CA, students participate in a program with a curriculum that focuses on STEM education and exposes students to careers in engineering, science, and technology. Jose Gonzalez, a student in the local program, stated: "During my trip to Santa Ana College, I met a mentor who encouraged me go to college and to do things that I did not think I was capable. I want to go to Azusa Pacific University and become a lawyer." Ambitious participants like Jose prove that programs like the Ford Driving Dreams through Education are crucial to the development of Hispanic students. In order for these students to feel empowered with the drive to succeed, LULAC proudly supports them and ensures that each participant receives the guidance they need to accomplish their goals.

Congratulations to the 10 LULAC councils who received a \$20,000 grant to fund their local initiative for two years, starting in 2010 and ending in 2012:

- LULAC Cesar E. Chavez Council # 1086 (*Mesa, Arizona*)
- LULAC # 1083 (*Phoenix, Arizona*)
- LULAC Salinas Council #2055 (*Salinas, California*)
- Santa Ana LULAC #147 (*Santa Ana, California*)
- Midwest City LULAC #19002 (*Midwest City, Oklahoma*)
- Central Texas LULAC #4734 (*Temple, Texas*)
- Collin County LULAC #4537 (*Plano, Texas*)
- Greater Houston LULAC Council #4967 (*Houston, Texas*)
- LULAC Council #4782 (*Farmers Branch, Texas*)
- Milwaukee LULAC #326 (*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*)

After a successful first year, LULAC looks forward to launching 10 new local programs across the United States in 2011, amounting to a new total of 20 programs under the Ford Driving Dreams through Education initiative. For more information about the initiative, please contact Ulises A. Gonzalez, LULAC National Program Coordinator at [UGonzalez@LULAC.org](mailto:UGonzalez@LULAC.org).

# TECHNOLOGY

## LULAC Foster Digital Empowerment Nationwide

By Dahida Vega, LULAC National Program Coordinator

During the fall of 2010, the League of United Latin American Citizens, in partnership with the Broadband Opportunity Coalition (BBOC), launched a broadband adoption project aimed to increase the computer literacy of Hispanics across the nation.

The Digital Connector Programs are being held at ten of LULAC's community

technology centers, including:

Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum, Hartford, CT.  
Latino Leadership Orlando, FL.  
Latin Americans United for Progress, Holland, MI.  
Latin American Youth Center, Washington, D.C.



Photo by Luis Nino Briones

Tech Center in Washington, D.C.

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## LULAC Leads Nationwide Campaign to Fight Discrimination in the Workplace

By Ulises Gonzalez, National Program Coordinator

Over the past year, LULAC worked with the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices to end workforce discrimination. In the face of discrimination, Latinos, like many other minority groups, are often discriminated by their potential employers for various reasons. The Immigration and Nationality Act prohibits employers to discriminate based on national origin, immigration status, and protects

Participants left empowered with the knowledge to recognize the different types of discrimination and how to report their case directly to the Department of Justice's



Hotline: 1 (800) 255-7688.

In addition to presenting these critical workshops, LULAC distributed 15,000 postcards to our membership, 200 posters to community-based organizations and LULAC

technology centers, and hosted two webinars that informed the general public and advocates about workforce discrimination. Moreover, LULAC reached out to 100 local businesses and provided tips about how to implement hiring policies that are free of discrimination.

Within these five workshops we have reached out to approximately 125 Latino families. For example, a workshop participant in Miami gave the following testimony: "I applied for a job at a restaurant and I was not hired because they knew I was Dominican; I know for a fact that the business owner only hires workers

who have his same national origin." This community member came to the workshop because they, like many others, needed to know if their rights were violated and wanted to learn more about their rights as a worker.

For more information, please visit [www.LULAC.org/DOJ](http://www.LULAC.org/DOJ). Join LULAC in to ensuring a fair and safe environment for all workers.



Workshop in Chicago

against retaliation and document abuse.

Through this partnership, LULAC helped employers and employees from diverse backgrounds and regions across the nation through five community workshops in the following cities Albuquerque (NM), Brick City (NJ), Miami (FL), Chicago (IL), and Boston (MA). Bringing together local experts and lawyers, the audience learned about the antidiscrimination provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

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## Digital Empowerment

Ohio Hispanic Coalition, Columbus, OH. LNESAC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, N.M. LNESAC Chicago, Chicago, IL. LNESAC Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX. LNESAC Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA., and LNESAC San Antonio, San Antonio, TX.

The program recruits 15 students of high school age in low-income communities, and provides a rigorous 9-month curriculum that empowers students with computer literacy, financial literacy, and communication literacy skills. The aim of the program is for the students will become "digital literacy ambassadors" and share the information they have gleaned from this program with their communities. The program rewards students with flip cameras, back packs, flash drives, lanyards, t-shirts, laptops, and a \$500 dollar stipend.

Currently, the students have trained 2555 community members through creative and relevant Digital Connectors community service projects. Students have prevailed as true ambassadors and enthusiastically meet their community during accessible times, such as evenings and weekends, and familiar places, such as public libraries, LULAC Community Technology Centers, schools, and community events. The program has focused on email account set-up, Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Internet research skills, and social networking tips. The youth of all 10 participating centers are dedicated to achieving their goal of training 9000 community members.

As a nation whose economic growth depends on digital knowledge, the most essential economic empowerment tool



we can provide to our communities is computer literacy. Learn more about LULAC's work to Empower Hispanic America with Technology at [www.LULAC.org/programs/technology](http://www.LULAC.org/programs/technology).

## Effort to Scrap Bilingual Program Rejected by Irving School Board

LULAC helped to mount a successful effort aiming to reject a proposal by members of the Irving, TX school board, which tried to eliminate the district's bilingual education program. The plan was rejected by a 5-2 vote at the board's June 13 meeting.

"This can be seen as a tremendous victory for Hispanics throughout the state as it shows other districts what will happen if they try to abolish bilingual education," said Richard Sambrano, a deputy state director for LULAC.

Other organizations opposing the change were MALDEF and the Texas Association of Bilingual Educators (TABE). Among a host of speakers at the crowded June 13 Board meeting were Mr. Sambrano and Manuel Benavidez, the founder of a former Irving LULAC council.



Two newly elected members of the school board, Steven Jones and Gail Wells, offered the proposal to create an optional English immersion program for Spanish-speaking

children. LULAC and other opponents of the proposal said the "sink-or-swim" approach to teaching English would not only be a disservice to Irving students, but also be a violation of non-English speaker students' rights under state law.

In a joint letter to the Irving board, opponents of the Jones/Wells plan said: "The academic debate is over in terms of which language programs work and which do not. All credible research shows that the longer a student receives instruction in their native language, the better they achieve academically, and Irving Independent School District's efforts to move toward structured English immersion would not only adversely affect student performance in the long run, but would also likely hamper the district's accountability ratings.

"Structured immersion programs result in superficial success where students are playground-proficient in English, but not academically proficient in English and prepared to take standardized tests," the letter continues. "Immersion programs have failed miserably wherever they have been implemented; the evidence is there from California to Arizona to Massachusetts. In fact, dual language is now the most popular and successful bilingual program in Texas, as more than one in three schools (over 800) now implement them in every regional education center across the state."

The letter went on to say that high quality bilingual education programs work and are, in fact, required under Texas law. It urged the district to continue implementing and supporting strong bilingual programs. The letter was signed by David Hinojosa of MALDEF, Dr. Richard Gomez of TABE, and Jorge Rivera, president of the LULAC council in Irving.

## MALDEF Wins Withdrawal of Challenge To 2001 In-State Tuition Law in Texas

Because of the intervention of University Leadership Initiative (ULI), hard-working undocumented immigrant students no longer face a legal claim from the Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas (IRCOT) to be stripped of their right to pay in-state tuition and take part in the "Texas Dream" of achieving a quality higher education.

On April 21, MALDEF filed a motion on behalf of ULI, defendant-intervenor in the case of IRCOT vs. Texas, to dismiss IRCOT's claim. In response, IRCOT dropped its claim seeking to strike down the in-state tuition law. Known as Texas House Bill 1403, and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry in 2001, the in-state tuition law provides educational access to all qualified Texas residents, regardless of their immigration status.

"We are very satisfied to have preserved in-state tuition laws for undocumented immigrant students," said David Hinojosa, MALDEF's Southwest Regional Counsel. "These are hardworking, deserving students who have succeeded in school, and they should have every opportunity to achieve their full academic potential."

To qualify for HB 1403, a student must graduate from a Texas high school or receive a GED after attending for three consecutive years; live with a parent, legal guardian or conservator during that time; register as an entering student in a higher education institution; and sign an affidavit stating that they will apply for permanent residency as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Texas was the first of 11 states to pass an in-state tuition law. HB 1403 has proven to be a tremendous success in helping undocumented immigrant students become productive members of society through educational attainment, one of the key tenets of the LULAC mission.

"We're ecstatic that the attack against in-state tuition has been dropped," said Julieta Garibay, Board President of ULI. "We will continue our mission to encourage all Texans to pursue higher education and will remain vigilant against anything that threatens the future of our education."

Michael Bongiorno, David F. Olsky and Somil Trivedi of the law firm of WilmerHale served as pro-bono co-counsel with MALDEF in the case.

## LULAC National President Margaret Moran Greet Army Recruiters



*President Moran meets with U.S. Army Recruiters*



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**Congratulations to the 2011 LULAC Council winners of the Ford Driving Dreams through Education program, stimulating academic achievement and high school completion.**

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## FARWEST REGION

### LULAC Farwest Region Expands to Include 15 New Utah Councils

On January 8, LULAC expanded its reach in the Farwest region with the election of a Utah LULAC State Board in Salt Lake City. The board, which is chaired by Antonella Romero Packard, oversees 15



*Utah State Officials installed by LULAC National President Margaret Moran.*

new LULAC Councils.

Among the LULAC officials on hand for the election were National President Margaret Moran and National Vice President for the Farwest Mickie Solorio Luna. Mrs. Luna conducted a training and organizing meeting in Salt Lake City in September, 2010.

The Utah organization includes adult, young adult and youth councils. Membership also includes several Associate members from Cancun, Mexico. A founding celebration concluded with a performance by Mariachi Juvenil de Utah, at which Farwest Vice President Luna and National President Moran recognized the members who organized the new local LULAC councils.

Rita Chavez Medina, sister of the late labor leader Cesar Chavez, presented honorees with autographed "Si Se Puede" flags commemorating the struggles and historical events of the United Farm Workers, whose history extends into Utah.

Special recognition awards were presented to Utah coordinator Antonella Romero Packard and Utah organizers Salvador Lazalde,

Juan Manuel Ruiz, Noraisela Miranda, Ana Lamb and Celina Milner.

Special guests attending the celebration included Socorro Roviros, Consul de Mexico, Salt Lake City Consulates office; Keith Atkinson and Bill Evans of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Department of Public Affairs; Elder Rodolfo Franco of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Lew Cramer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Utah World Trade Center; Utah State Representative Mark Archuleta Wheatley and Utah State Senator Luz Robles.

National Board members present included Oscar Moran, former National President from San Antonio; Berta Urteaga, National Vice President for Youth from Houston; Andres Rodriguez, National Vice President for Youth, Farwest Region from Hollister, CA; Manuel Rendón, National Vice President for Young Adults from Dallas; Richard Roybal, Executive Director for the LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Washington, D.C., and Mr. Vince Luna, National LULAC Veterans Committee member from Hollister, CA.

Also present were Baldo Garza, Chairman, National LULAC Civil Rights Committee from Houston; Richard Sambrano, President's Liaison on Civil Rights from Dallas; and Juan Manuel Ruiz, Member, Civil Rights Committee from Salt Lake City, UT. On Jan. 7, Mr. Garza and Mr. Ruiz presented a workshop on civil rights with former U.S. Department of Justice Mediator Richard Sambrano. The workshop was attended by Utah community leaders and LULAC members.

Utah's LULAC state officials are Director Packard, Deputy Director Salvador Lazalde, Treasurer Guillermo Garcia, Deputy Director for the Elderly John Tenney, Deputy Director for Women's Activities Elena Bensor, Deputy Director for Young Adults Christian Ivan Soto and Deputy Director for Youth Celina Milner.

State Youth officers are Director Francisco Cardenas, Deputy Director Joaquin Casillas, Director for Young Women Elizabeth Lopez and Treasurer Sheila Lazcano.

The Farwest region includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii.

### LULAC Council Formed in San Jose, Calif.

LULAC National President Margaret Moran and former National President Oscar Moran attended a reception in San Jose, CA on Jan. 15, along with Mickie Solorio Luna, National Vice President of the Farwest Region and Vince Luna, National LULAC Veterans Committee.

Accompanying Mrs. Luna was Rita Chavez Medina, who welcomed President Moran and Mr. Moran to San Jose on behalf of the Chavez Vision Family Foundation. Mrs. Medina is the sister of the late farmworker organizer Cesar Chavez. Many community leaders and dignitaries attended the event.



*LULAC National President Margaret Moran meets with members of a new council in California.*

Ruben Garcia, newly elected President of San Jose Silicon LULAC Council, and officers sponsored the evening event at the Center for Educational Training (CET). Members of the CET Culinary School prepared the meal for the event.

The council will bring new energy to the Farwest Region. Many of its members are professionals who are active in the San Jose and neighboring communities.

President Moran and Vice President Mickie Solorio Luna welcome the new council to the LULAC family.



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## Former Clinton Administration Official Speaks At LULAC Assembly in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

Former Clinton administration official Jeffrey Farrow delivered the keynote speech at the annual assembly of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) conference in Toa Baja on May 21.

“We have a belief and we are going to defend it – a relationship of equal rights.”

Clinton established the task force in December 2000 to come up with recommendations on the island’s political-status options,



*Puerto Rico LULAC State Assembly*

Farrow, who served as director of intergovernmental affairs under the administration of former President Bill Clinton, used his speech to detail the fine points of the recently released report from the President’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s status.

Farrow was the Clinton administration’s point man on Puerto Rico as the head of the first White House task force on the island status issue.

In his speech, Farrow took a deep look at the economic and trade aspects of the latest task force report.

“Jeffrey Farrow has been a friend of Puerto Rico for decades,” said Haydeé Rivera, a former State Director of the LULAC chapters in Puerto Rico. “He started the task force that has now issued its report to finally solve the status issue.”

Rivera said most of the 3,000-member local chapters favors statehood, adding that they would push for support for that status during LULAC’s national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 27-July 2.

“We want a non-territorial, non-colonial solution and we are going for it,” Rivera said.

and former President George W. Bush continued its work. In October 2009, President Barack Obama signed an order expanding the task force’s scope to include job creation, education, healthcare, clean energy and economic development. The task force held two

public hearings last year, one in San Juan and the other in Washington, D.C., as part of the process of developing its report.

The task force is co-chaired by Cecilia Muñoz, who is the White House Interagency Affairs director, and Associate Attorney Gen-

eral Tom Perrelli, the third-ranking official at the U.S. Justice Department.

Released in March, the 112-page report championed a number of key local government policy goals being actively pursued by Gov. Luis Fortuño’s administration, and provided detailed proposals and recommended courses of action over the short and medium term.

*Reprinted from Caribbean Business*



*Carolina Muñoz, LULAC National Fiscal Officer, was honored by Ivonne Quiñones-Lanzo, PR State Director*

## LULAC Mourns Death of Brig. General Torres



*Gen. Torres*

LULAC officials expressed deep condolences over the death of Brigadier General Victor J. Torres-Rodriguez. He was killed in a Puerto

Rico National Guard helicopter crash off the coast of the island in December while en route to a drug raid. He was LULAC National Guard District Director for Puerto Rico and one of 11 persons killed in the crash at the age of 58.

“He was a tireless advocate for LULAC and was founder of the National Guard LULAC District,” said Hayee Rivera, former state director for Puerto Rico. “LULAC has lost one of its strongest advocates. We miss him terribly.” General Torres was second in command of the Puerto Rico National Guard. Governor Luis Fortuno ordered seven days of mourning and flags to fly at half-staff.

## 9/11 Firefighters Honored



A special Mass was conducted in Puerto Rico honoring firefighters from the island who went to New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The firemen contributed to the rescue and recovery efforts nearly a decade ago. Participants honoring the volunteers included many members of LULAC.





# Are we finally done talking?

## **We support Chairman Genachowski's Open Internet proposal.**

For the last five years, there has been legitimate debate over Internet policy, but the end goal of getting more people connected seems to have been lost.

We all agree the Open Internet of today has helped many Americans communicate in ways we'd never dreamed possible. It's also created new businesses and new ways of doing business.

But far too many Americans are still without access.

We now have the opportunity to protect the Open Internet and continue the investment necessary to bring broadband to more people than ever before.

It's time to move forward with the FCC's National Broadband Plan — and bring opportunity and advancement to the lives of all Americans, including the 100,000,000 who are not yet online.

From learning new skills to finding a job to securing quality health care, broadband has become critical to success.

## **We need to make sure no one gets left behind.**



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Paid for by Broadband and Social Justice Foundation

## HOUSING

### LULAC Counsels Struggling Latino Homeowners

By *Ulises A. Gonzalez, LULAC National Program Coordinator*

Amidst an increasing number of foreclosures, LULAC and Bank of America have teamed up over the past two years to assist families in need.

LULAC hosted free foreclosure

at the LULAC State Conventions. During each workshop, a HUD-certified housing counselor presented information about the foreclosure process, loan modifications, how to communicate with your bank, recognizing fraud, and other options available for a distressed homeowners.

A community member stated the

HUD-Certified Housing Counselors provide free services to families that help stabilize community communities across the country. It is important that we urge Congress keep funding for these services in place. "The effect of foreclosure has had a great impact on the life of Latino families and we need to ensure financial education is available for the Latino community," stated Sylvia Alvarez, Executive Director of the Housing & Education Alliance. LULAC is working to do just that by holding these free info sessions and reaching out to hardworking families in need of housing counseling.

Along the way, LULAC collaborated with outstanding partners, such as the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, Catholic Charities Galveston-Houston, Housing and Education Alliance, and Chicano Por La Causa, Inc. We thank them for their partnership in the LULAC Foreclosure Assistance Workshops and for supporting families who are facing foreclosures. Most importantly, this work would not have been possible without the support of Bank of America. We thank them for their commitment to Hispanic homeowners.

If you are facing foreclosure and/or want to learn about the home buying process, LULAC strongly recommends speaking to a HUD-approved housing counselor. To find a counselor in your area, please contact Ulises A. Gonzalez, LULAC National Program Coordinator, at (202) 833-6130 or visit [www.HUD.gov](http://www.HUD.gov).



*Several participants at the Las Vegas foreclosure workshop*

workshops in states where Latinos have been impacted by the housing crisis the most. In Las Vegas (NV), LULAC partnered with the Women's Development Corporation and shared critical information with families who needed advice in how to handle their mortgages. In addition, over 80 participants in Houston (TX) and over 60 community members in Oxnard (CA), Tampa (FL), and Phoenix (AZ) were empowered with helpful housing resources

following: "Due to the ill economy, I have experienced economic hardship and I came to the workshop to learn how modify my loan." During the info session, the guest speakers informed local attendees about programs that might be helpful to their situation. Homeowners also received advice regarding the foreclosure process, such as the importance of proper communication with their bank and reaching out for help once they see the signs of trouble.

## NORTHEAST CORNER

### Rainbow PUSH Wall Street Economic Summit:

Ralina Cardona, LULAC State Director in New York, participated in a panel on labor, civil rights and the economy during the 14th annual Wall Street Project Conference held on Jan. 13 at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City.

Each year the conference attracts nearly 3,000 delegates, including corporate executives, political leaders, minority suppliers and government, labor and faith leaders.



*Cardona with actor/activist Danny Glover.*

### U.S. District Court Rejects Redistricting Effort in Irving, Texas

On February 15, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas rejected an effort that would have forced the city of Irving, TX to draw city council districts in a way that would have discriminated against Hispanics.

A lawsuit filed by several Irving residents sought a court order mandating that the city apportion its council districts based on citizen voting age population instead of total population. Such a policy would have severely reduced representation of Latinos in Irving by not counting the city's large Hispanic youth population and noncitizens.

The court ruled in favor of the city, holding that Irving had the right to apportion its districts based on total population to provide fair representation to all Irving residents.

"Every resident of a legislative district - regardless of age, citizenship, voter registration, or any other characteristic - is a constituent deserving of fair representation," said Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel of MALDEF, who intervened in the case on behalf of Latinos. "The court was right to approve the wise decision to ensure equal representation to every resident of Irving."

"This is an important victory for all voters, regardless of race, who

enjoy fair representation in equally-apportioned districts," said Nina Perales, MALDEF's Director of Litigation and lead counsel for the Latino interveners in the case. "This case also represents a defeat for fringe elements of society who want to target Latinos for exclusion from the political process."



*Irving City Council meeting*

U.S. District Court Judge Jorge A. Solis ruled in Dallas that Irving's electoral plan for single-member districts is in alignment with the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He rejected claims by a group of Irving residents who argued that the city's new single-member plan violates "one person, one vote."

The challengers said that one district had half as many voters as the other districts, which made those votes overrepresented in choosing a council member. Judge Solis held that the claim was without merit and that apportioning council districts based on population, not voters, was proper under the U.S. Constitution. Thus, the city can use new U.S. Census data to adjust the districts for next year's election.

The court's opinion can be found online at: [http://maldef.org/assets/pdf/Lepak\\_SJ\\_Ruling.pdf](http://maldef.org/assets/pdf/Lepak_SJ_Ruling.pdf).

### LULAC Files Redistricting Suit To Gain Hispanic Seats in Texas

LULAC has filed suit in U.S. District Court in San Antonio against the state of Texas challenging the state's redistricting plans for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the state Board of Education. It is also challenging at-large elections to the Texas Railroad Commission.



LULAC attorneys Luis Vera, Jose Garza, Roland Rios and George Korbell contend that "the current redistricting schemes continue the effort by the state to dilute and minimize the impact of Latino voters on the election process." They asked the court to act quickly on the case because of the upcoming elections.

"The 2010 Census severely undercounts Latinos," LULAC stated in filing its case. "The 2010 census process and procedures resulted in substantial omissions of Latino population, particularly in the border region of Texas, including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Webb and El Paso Counties, as well as urban areas in Dallas and Houston." LULAC contends that the resulting undercount of Latinos along the border region of Texas was between 4% and 8% of the population for the region.

Using the data in redistricting "will undervalue the vote of Texas Latinos and limit the number of majority Latino districts which can be drawn consistent with applicable Constitutional and statutory requirements," LULAC argued. Thus the state is in violation of sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Texas Legislature used the 2010 Census data without

modification, accommodation or consideration of the undercount of the Latino population in adopting the plan for the Texas House districts. The plan will diminish the opportunity of Latino voters of Texas to participate in the political process by limiting the number of majority Latino districts

that can be developed. This is a major red flag for LULAC, as it seeks to empower all Hispanics with proper representation and a channel through which to voice their concerns, especially as our community continues to grow.

According to the 2010 census, the Hispanic population of Texas grew to 9,460,921 from 6,669,666. That is an increase of about 42%. The state's total population increased 20% between 2000 and 2010 from 20.8 million to 25.1 million. That entitles Texas to four more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and shows that the Hispanic Texans comprised most of the growth of the Texas minority population.

As Latinos and African Americans are considered two of the most undercounted groups in the nation, LULAC's efforts to ensure that their voting power is not diluted is critical to the advancement of these communities' needs. Without proper representation, the inequalities that exist in Texas cannot be accurately and fairly addressed by its residents. LULAC will continue to keep its members updated on the status of this case as it develops.



# 2011 LULAC National Convention Rules

## 2011 Convention rules approved by the National Board of Directors

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-certified attendees be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by stand up, show of hands, or roll call vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in anyone election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three official counters.
10. Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections where candidates are running unopposed their elections will be combined and held by acclamation. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be as follows and will be conducted before resolutions/amendments are voted on.
  - National President
  - Southwest VP
  - Northwest VP
  - Farwest VP
  - VP for the Elderly
  - VP for Young Adults
  - Treasurer
  - Southeast VP
  - Northeast VP
  - Midwest VP
  - VP for Women
  - VP for Youth
  - 2014 Convention Site
14. First reading of all Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions will be presented immediately after the Assembly is convened.
15. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to three speakers for and three speakers against with each speaker having two minutes.
16. All resolutions must be type written and submitted in the form provided for in the LULAC website and submitted by a local council in good standing. Approved State resolutions must be submitted to the National Office within five days of passage. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to two speakers for and two speakers against with each speaker having two minutes. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.
17. Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be type written and submitted by using the form provided in the LULAC website and signed by the total registered delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee and the State Director or his/her designee be notified. The Resolution Committee Chair shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 16 shall apply to this rule.
18. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws & Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.
19. These adopted 2011 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.
20. Delegates, alternates and guests must maintain proper decorum at all times. Whistles are not allowed. Individuals intentionally disrupting election proceedings as determined by the Convention Chair will be expelled from the floor. No unauthorized audio or video recording shall be permitted.
21. Any individual that uses profanity, verbally threatens or attacks another member on or near the voting floor be removed from the voting floor and that charges to expel the member for "actions contrary to the principles of LULAC" be brought against the member by the presiding officer at the next National or Executive Board meeting

# Proposed Amendments to the LULAC Constitution & By Laws

■ CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE VI, Section 1 The National Assembly, Subsection c Sessions (Page 10) Reads:

The National Assembly shall convene annually in the month of June at a convention site which it shall select by majority vote in accordance with the method of selection established in the By-Laws.

**Amend to read:**

The National Assembly shall convene annually in the month of June at a convention site which it shall select by majority vote in accordance with the method of selection established in the By-Laws.

Starting in the year 2016 and continuing every fourth year thereafter. The National Assembly shall meet in Washington, D.C. during the month of June or July.

The following paragraph of subsection c remains the same.

The National Assembly may be called into a special session by the National Board of Directors in cases of extreme need but such call must be approved by three fourths of the active councils who shall indicate their wishes by a certified mail vote.

■ BY-LAWS - ARTICLE II, Section 2, selection of a convention site, Subsection a (Page 64) Reads:

Any local Council or group of councils in good standing may bid for the right to host the national convention.

**Amend to read:**

Any local council or group of councils in good standing may bid for the right to host the national convention. Except that bids will not be accepted for national conventions to be held in 2016 and every fourth year thereafter (U.S. Presidential Election years). The convention site is set by Article VI, Section 1(c) of the Constitution.

Submitted by Washington, D.C. Council And State Director for Washington, D. C.

■ CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE IV, Section 1, Subsection b (7) (page 5) – General members

Section 1-General Members: Persons who fulfill all qualifications for membership, are actively affiliated with local, district, state, and national dues will be enrolled as members of the League.

Subsection b. (7) To have their membership transferred to another council upon written notification to their home council and the approval of receiving one. Such transfer may be temporary or permanent and all details of dues, honors, membership classification, etc. shall be handled by the secretaries of the respective councils. However, at no time can a member belong to two councils. The member's council of record with the national office at the time of the conflict will prevail.

Proposed amendment is to delete the last two sentences and have Subsection b. (7)

**Amend to read:**

Subsection b. (7) To have their membership transferred to another Council upon notification to their home council and the approval of receiving one. Such transfer may be temporary or permanent and all details of dues, honors, membership classification, etc. shall be handled by the secretaries of the respective councils.

Presented by Council President (and immediate Past National LULAC President) Rosa Rosales Council 4811 and Supported by Councils 4516, 4406, 4475, 2000, 4483, 403

■ CONSTITUTION - Article IV Members (page 3)

All persons of either sex who are residents of the United States of America, or citizens of the United States residing abroad, and are eighteen years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in the League. No council, at present or in the future, shall deviate from this requirement or ask for more requirements to become a member of LULAC.

**Amend to read:**

All persons of either sex who are residents of the United State of America, or citizens of the United States residing abroad, and are eighteen years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in the League. Exception, a person convicted of a violent felony crime will be ineligible for membership in LULAC. No council, at present or in the future, shall deviate from this requirement or ask for more requirements to become a member of LULAC.

■ CONSTITUTION - Article VIII, Section 4 (page 28) Qualifications:

All National Officers, whether elected or appointed, must:

Subsection (d) Not have served in the same office, whether intermittently or consecutively for more than four years.

**Amend to read:**

Not have served in the same office, whether intermittently or consecutively for more than four years, except for the National Secretary and National Legal Advisors.

Above amendments submitted by Belen Robles, President, LULAC Council 9

■ CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE VI, Section 4 Subsection (c) (page 16) -The State Assembly:

ARTICLE VI, Section 4, Subsection (c) presently reads as follows:

c. Sessions: The state assemblies shall convene annually in the month of May and shall follow all procedures as to site selection, special sessions, etc., as set forth for the national assembly under Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws. With the exception of District of Columbia, all state officers in states with less than three councils will be appointed by the National President with consent of the National Board of Directors.

**Proposed Amendment to read as follows:**

ARTICLE VI, Section 4, Subsection (c)

c. Sessions: The state assemblies shall convene annually in the month of May and shall follow all procedures as to site selection, special sessions, etc., as set forth for the national assembly under article VI, Section I of the Bylaws. With the exception of District of Columbia, all state officers in states with less than ten (10) councils will be appointed by the National President with consent of the national board of directors.

Presented by Council President Rodolfo Rosales Jr. Council 4483 and Supported by Councils 4516, 4406, 4475, 2000, 4483, 403

■ CONSTITUTION - ARTICLE VI (page 17) presently reads:

Section 6 – District Assembly:

a. Definition and Composition: The district assembly comprises the highest authority within the District and shall be composed of:

- (1) The district executive board members;
- (2) The certified delegation of the local councils.

b. Powers: The district assembly is vested with all legislative, judicial and executive powers granted under its Constitution and Bylaws, and all duly adopted resolutions and policies which shall be subordinate to and not in conflict with the state and national constitutions and Bylaws, resolutions, policies or customs.

c. Sessions: The district assemblies shall meet annually in the month of April, following the procedures set forth in their Constitution and Bylaws for calling the conventions, determining sites, etc. If their constitutions make no such provisions or a constitution has not been drawn up, districts will follow the procedures set forth in this Constitution Under Article VI, Section 2, Subsection c., Items (1) through (4) of the National Bylaws. However, no District with less than three councils may hold a district convention.

d. Quorum: One third (1/3) of the active local councils shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

section 6 – district assembly:

a. Definition and Composition: The district assembly comprises the highest authority within the District and shall be composed of:

1. The district Executive Board Members;
2. The certified delegation of the local councils.

Provided that:

- i) Districts shall be strictly defined and maintained within geographic boundaries, eg. municipalities and/or surrounding counties;
- ii) Local councils within the geographic boundaries of existing Districts may not break away from those District;
- iii) All new local councils formed within the geographic boundaries of designated and existing districts must respect and join the existing District; and
- iv) No retroactive actions may be taken against districts existing as of the date of the adoption these provisions and the boundaries of such Districts shall be respected.

Presented by Council President Rodolfo Rosales Jr. Council 4483 and Supported by Councils 4516, 4406, 4475, 2000, 4483, 403

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